

1 REMARKS

2 Status of the Claims

3 Claims 1-32 are now pending in the present application. Applicants have amended Claims 1
4 and 17 to more clearly define the subject matter and to better distinguish over the art cited.
5 Claims 12, 13, and 14 have been amended to correct typographical errors.

6 Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

7 Claims 1-5, 7-13, 15-21, 23-29 and 31-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being
8 unpatentable over Hayes et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,339,826 ("Hayes") further in view of Gupta et al.
9 (U.S. Patent No. 6,868,448 hereinafter referred to as "Gupta"). Claims 6, 14, 22, and 30 are rejected
10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayes in view of U.S. Patent Application No.
11 2003/1200496 of Alfred et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Alfred"). Applicants respectfully disagree
12 with these rejections because the cited art in combination does not teach or suggest all of the
13 recitation in these claims.

14 In the interest of reducing the complexity of the issues for the Examiner to consider in this
15 response, the following discussion focuses on independent Claims 1 and 17. The patentability of
16 each remaining dependent claim is not necessarily separately addressed in detail. However,
17 applicants' decision not to discuss the differences between the cited art and each dependent claim
18 should not be considered as an admission that applicants concur with the Examiner's conclusion that
19 these dependent claims are not patentable over the disclosure in the cited reference. Similarly,
20 applicants' decision not to discuss differences between the prior art and every claim element, or every
21 comment made by the Examiner, should not be considered as an admission that applicants concur
22 with the Examiner's interpretation and assertions regarding those claims. Indeed, applicants believe
23 that all of the dependent claims patentably distinguish over the references cited. Moreover, a specific
24 traverse of the rejection of each dependent claim is not required, since dependent claims are
25 patentable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims from which the dependent claims
26 ultimately depend.

27 Discussion of the Rejection of the First Step of Independent Claim 1

28 The Examiner asserts that Hayes discloses applicants' first step of independent Claim 1 that
29 recites "receiving personal information from a user corresponding to a unique user identity, wherein
30 the personal information includes at least one of the user's: surname; given name; address; set of

1 initials; telephone number; and firm name." The Examiner applies three citations in Hayes
2 (column 1, lines 56-column 2, line 30; column 6, line 57-column 8, line 5; column 19, lines 18-26).
3 In addition, under the section entitled "Response to Arguments," in response to applicants' argument
4 that Hayes does not teach or describe "receiving personal information" from a user, the Examiner
5 asserts that Hayes does teach the server receiving a user's modified profile including user name, ID,
6 and password from the user (column 2, lines 5-9; column 19, lines 18-26). The Examiner also asserts
7 in response to applicants' argument that Hayes teaches the applets are configured by an administrator,
8 not by a user, that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., that the applets are configured by an
9 administrator, not by a user) are not recited in the rejected claims. Thus, although it has long been
10 recognized that the claims should be interpreted in light of the specification, the Examiner states that
11 such limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. Moreover, the Examiner
12 indicates that Hayes teaches an administrator's computer, which is assumed to be a client computer
13 (Figure 2), and the Examiner assumes that a user is acting in a role of an administrator (column 7,
14 lines 51-53; column 8, lines 47-56).

15 Applicants' respectfully disagree. The first step of independent Claim 1 specifically refers to
16 "*receiving personal information from a user.*" In contrast, Hayes teaches (the portion cited by the
17 Examiner is underlined):

18 In the left panel, the User Groups item 1302 corresponds to the AllUsers group
19 of FIG. 3 ("User Groups" and "AllUsers" are used interchangeably herein). FIG. 15
20 shows the right panel of the administrator's station when the "User Groups" item 1302
21 is selected. In FIG. 15, a notebook panel is displayed on the right that contains three
22 tabs--a Members tab 1514, a Subgroups tab 1516 and an Applet Permissions tab 1518.
23 The Members tab is selected in FIG. 15. The Members panel contains a list 1520 of
24 the log-on identifications of all members that have been defined to the system. ***To***
25 ***create a new user*** (who will automatically gain membership into the presently
26 selected group context--"User Group"), ***the administrator selects <NEW> from the***
27 ***list 1520, enters the appropriate information*** in the entry fields 1523 to the right of
28 the list, and then clicks on the Create button 1522. When an existing member is
29 selected from the list 1520, the attributes previously saved for that user are displayed
30 at 1523. These attributes include the ***full name of the selected member***, the member's
system ID, password and any desired comments. The attributes, except ID, may be
edited and the changes committed (but not Saved) by clicking the Modify button 1524,
or the user may be removed from the system entirely by clicking the Delete button
1526. Any pending change may be removed by selecting the entry in the list 1520 and
clicking the Undo button 1528. (Emphasis added, see Hayes, column 19, lines 1-26)

1 Although it is apparent in this citation that the full name of a member is stored, this citation
2 teaches that appropriate information for each new member is entered by an administrator, in contrast
3 to "receiving personal information from a user," as applicants' claim recites. Based upon the context
4 of the teaching from Hayes cited just above, it is apparent that Hayes treats a member as a user, but
5 does not indicate that the a user provides personal information and does not state in regard to this part
6 of the disclosure of Hayes, that the user is acting as an administrator.

7 However, the Examiner argues that the user is acting in the role of the administrator, so that
8 the personal information is actually being received from a user. The Examiner cites the following in
9 support of this argument (underlined portion cited by Examiner):

10 A high-level diagram of the profile management administrative operating
11 environment is shown in FIG. 2. An administrator client network computer 200 is
12 represented on the left of the Fig. and a server 202 for the system is on the right. The
13 client and server communicate via a network represented as 203. The particular
14 example of FIG. 2 assumes that the client computer is a system administrator's
15 computer (Hayes, column 7, lines 46-53).

16 ProfileManagementProperties P 210 is a properties object for applet1 and
17 provides an API between Applet1 and the server that allows the server to determine
18 where to store **configuration information for applet1** in the context of users and
19 groups. The ProfileManagementProperties object class provides all of the functionality
20 of the java.util.properties class with the further ability to create, save, and retrieve the
21 configuration information for software from permanent storage. Storing such
22 information in a central location makes management of user and group configurations
23 possible. When a user is in the role of administrator, ProfileManagementProperties
24 210 allows the administrator to configure the user applet corresponding to
25 configuration applet1, or to configure applet1 if applet1 is an end user applet, and
26 store the configuration information in the proper place on the server in the proper
27 context. This allows the establishment of a relationship between the user applet and
28 the user, rather than between user applet and computer as in traditional systems.
29 ProfileManagementProperties 210 is an extension of the java.util.Properties class. The
30 extension allows the key/value pairs of preference information of a Properties object
to be associated with a key, as opposed to a stream, as with java.util.Properties. This,
in turn, allows application developers to use the key to specify a unique location
relative to a context for preference information, rather than a file name and path.
ProfileManagementProperties 210 determines the key automatically. The generation
of the key is discussed more in connection with FIGS. 8 and 9. By modeling
ProfileManagementProperties 210 after the java.util.Properties class, the system can
take advantage of preference inheritance through recursive class-default evaluation.
Thus, this extended class provides a "group default" capability by accumulating
preferences starting at a current context, as discussed with respect to FIG. 3, and

traversing up the contextual hierarchy for defaults. (Emphasis added, Hayes, column 8, lines 38-column 9, line 5)

Based on the full quote provided above, it is apparent that the user is treated as being in the role of the administrator not for the purpose of supplying personal information, but only to configure a user applet. According to Microsoft's Computer Dictionary, Fourth Edition, an applet is defined as "a program that can be downloaded over the Internet and executed on the recipient's machine. Applets are often written in the Java programming language and run within browser software, and they are typically used to customize or add interactive elements to a Web page." Thus, configuring a user applet is not equivalent to providing personal information for a user. In summary, applicants do not agree that applet configuration information is equivalent to personal information.

Discussion of the Rejection of the Third Step of Independent Claim 1

The Examiner admits that Hayes does not explicitly teach that each of the user records is accessible by the plurality of application programs. However, the Examiner asserts that Gupta teaches the feature at login, a client's profiles or profile services can be shared/accessed by multiple applications, and he cites column 7, lines 6-18; column 12, line 48-column 13, line 14 and column 18, lines 22-46 of Gupta. The Examiner asserts it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the Data Processing art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Gupta into the system of Hayes to include the feature of client's profile/profile service (i.e., user record) being accessible or shared by multiple applications, because doing so would have provided an efficient system to allow accessing resources from a local server without using signed applets and would allow applets to share services in the network.

The Examiner indicates Gupta discloses that during a login process, the client establishes its identity, which is stored on the local application server, and the identity can be used for multiple applications and information requests (Gupta, column 7, lines 13-16). Therefore it appears that the Examiner is asserting that the identity of a client is equivalent to applicants' user record, so that this user record is accessible by a plurality of application programs.

However, it appears that Gupta utilizes a "credential" and not a user record as applicants' recite, wherein applicants' user record is stored and includes personal information. Gupta discloses that:

In an embodiment of the invention, login service 514C is used to generate a credential that can be used on behalf of the client to verify the client to an application

1 or network service. When the client wishes to access an application or network
2 service, the credential is sent to the application or network server. The application or
3 network server trusts the credential generated by login service 514C after verifying the
4 signatures of login service 514C. The credential can be used to enable a client to enter
5 a single login for all of the applications and/or network services that it accesses.
(Gupta, column 12, line 65 – column 13, line 7)

6 Login service 514C generates a credential certificate upon request of the client. It is
7 not necessary for the credential certificate to contain the client's password. The
8 credential certificate is sent by the applet to the network service or application. The
9 network service or application verifies the signature(s) generated by login service
514C using the credential certificate. (Gupta, column 13, lines 8-14)

10 Thus, it appears that Gupta generates this credential during the login of the user. Unlike
11 applicants' user record that is stored so that it can be accessed by the plurality of application
12 programs, Gupta's "credential" appears to be generated from a single login. Thus, it is implied that
13 this "credential" is not stored long term for recall at anytime, but is only generated whenever a user
14 logs in to an application or a network service. Nor is there any teaching or suggestion that Gupta's
15 "credential" includes any information that applicants' user record includes. Gupta's "credential" is
16 not a user profile that the login service maintains (Gupta, column 12 lines 48-51). It would not be
17 obvious to apply the teaching of Gupta regarding use of a credential to the teaching of Hayes. In
18 summary, the combination of Hayes and Gupta does not appear to teach or suggest to one of ordinary
19 skill in the art that each of the user records is accessible by a plurality of application programs.

20 Discussion of the Rejection of the Fourth Step of Independent Claim 1

21 The Examiner asserts that Hayes teaches applicants' fourth step in Claim 1, which recites
22 "upon identifying the unique user identity applicable to execution of an application program that is
23 included in the plurality of application programs, sharing the personal information corresponding
24 with the unique user identity with the application program, wherein the personal information is
25 applied to an output of the application program." The Examiner asserts that Hayes discloses upon
26 receiving a request from the user, the server provides a list of software which the user is permitted to
27 access, corresponding to the user's preferences, and cites the Abstract, column 13, lines 59-
28 column 14, line 67 and column 15, lines 37-59.

29 Under the section entitled "Response to Arguments," in regard to applicants' previous
30 argument that Hayes does not teach or suggest the personal information is applied to an output of the

1 application program, the Examiner submits that “the personal information is applied to an output of
2 the application program” could be given a broad and reasonable interpretation as sending/outputting
3 the application program according to the user information.” And, the Examiner asserts that Hayes
4 teaches that upon receiving the request from the client or user, the server sends/downloads (i.e.,
5 provides as output) a list of applications to which the user has access permission according to the
6 user’s preferences/profiles.

7 Applicants respectfully point out that the claim recitation as amended in order to further
8 clarify now provides that “*the personal information is applied to customize an output of the*
9 *application program.*” This aspect of the claim is clearly not taught or suggested by the combination
10 of Hayes and Gupta. Accordingly, the rejection of independent Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)
11 should be withdrawn.

12 Discussion of the Rejection of Independent Claim 17

13 With regard to independent Claim 17, which recites a computer system for utilizing personal
14 information to customize an application program, for the reasons discussed above, the combination of
15 Hayes and Gupta do not teach or suggest all of the claim limitations of independent Claim 17.
16 Accordingly, the rejection of independent Claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

17 Because dependent claims are considered to include all of the elements of the independent
18 claims from which the dependent claims ultimately depend, and because Hayes and Gupta do not
19 disclose or suggest all of the steps and elements respectively of independent Claims 1 and 17, the
20 rejection of dependent Claims 2-5, 7-13, 15-16, 18-21, 23-29, and 31-32, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)
21 over Hayes and Gupta should also be withdrawn for at least these reasons.

22 In addition, Claims 6 and 14 depend from independent Claim 1, which is patentable for the
23 reasons discussed above. Similarly, Claims 22 and 30 depend from independent Claim 17, which
24 also is patentable for the reasons discussed above. Because dependent claims are considered to
25 include all of the steps or elements of the independent claims from which the dependent claims
26 depend, dependent Claims 6 and 14 and Claims 22 and 30 are patentable for at least the same reasons
27 discussed above with regard to independent Claims 1 and 17, respectively.

28 In view of the amendments and Remarks set forth above, it will be apparent that the claims in
29 this application define a novel and non-obvious invention, and that the application is in condition for
30

1 allowance and should be passed to issue without further delay. Should any further questions remain,
2 the Examiner is invited to telephone applicants' attorney at the number listed below.

3
4 Respectfully submitted,

5 

6 Sabrina K. MacIntyre
7 Registration No. 56,912
8

9 SKM/RMA:lrg
10

11 EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

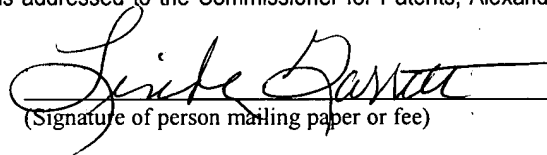
12 Express Mail Label No. EV538088204US

Date of Deposit: July 13, 2005

13 I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee"
14 service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, Virginia
15 22313-1450.

16 Linda Garrett

(Name of person mailing paper/fee)

17 
18 (Signature of person mailing paper or fee)
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30